

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE HAWAII
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's farms and farmers reflect the heritage
2 and diversity of many cultures and people and are the
3 cornerstones of the State's goals for food security,
4 sustainability, and self-sufficiency; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution mandates the
7 preservation and protection of agricultural resources; and
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9 WHEREAS, the number of small farms in Hawaii has grown
10 substantially during the last ten years, shifting the
11 agricultural landscape from plantations to smaller farms with
12 diverse cropping and marketing systems; and
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14 WHEREAS, there is a renewed interest in planting school
15 gardens and enabling children to eat and enjoy food grown on
16 campus; and
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18 WHEREAS, these trends are creating new local food sources
19 and increased employment, which necessitate the development of
20 science-based good agricultural practices and risk-reducing
21 guidelines to prevent potential food product contamination; and
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23 WHEREAS, at the national level, the Food and Safety
24 Modernization Act of 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug
25 Administration to develop science- and risk-based criteria for
26 preventing food-borne illnesses and encourages states to
27 establish similar intrastate criteria for the safe production,
28 distribution, and consumer handling of food; and
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30 WHEREAS, due to economic thresholds, the Food Safety
31 Modernization Act only covers twenty-one percent of produce
32 farms in the United States, and oversight will not come to
33 Hawaii until 2017 or 2018, and even then will not cover the full



1 range of behaviors that are covered by a solid good agricultural
2 practices program; and
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4 WHEREAS, good agricultural practices programs established
5 elsewhere, including Georgia-GAPs, CanadaGAPs, KenyaGAPs, and
6 ThaiGAPs, and the United States Department of Agriculture
7 Agricultural Marketing Service's Harmonized Audit provide risk-
8 reducing practices including on-farm and packing-shed best
9 practices for human hygiene, pest and on-farm animal management,
10 field management, use of pesticide, fertilizer, and soil
11 amendment, water quality for irrigation and produce rinse,
12 packing-shed operations and maintenance, and product traceback;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has auditors
16 trained in good agricultural practices and an existing auditing
17 rate structure that is the least expensive in the nation; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has a
20 successful history of agricultural oversight; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
25 Agriculture is requested to establish a Hawaii good agricultural
26 practices program for farms growing local agricultural food
27 products; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii good agricultural
30 practices program:

- 31 (1) Develop science- and risk- based good agricultural
32 practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-
33 farm food-borne illness and include, as appropriate,
34 specific considerations and methodologies for farm
35 sizes, practices, techniques, materials, and crops;
- 36 (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train
37 Hawaii farmers to learn and implement good
38 agricultural practices in a cost-effective and
39 efficient manner;



(3) Provide procedures for the voluntary verification of on-farm implementation of good agricultural practices and the subsequent issuance of state compliance certification; and

(4) Develop a consumer information program for publication and broadcast to teach home practices for the treatment and handling of fresh and processed agricultural food products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture consult as necessary with the Department of Health, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and other state and federal agencies to develop and implement the Hawaii good agricultural practices program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Director of Health.

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